WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1   1. A method for acquiring information associated with a location,
2 comprising:
3   searching a network for sensor measurements associated with a location;
4 and
5   acquiring from the network a plurality of sensor measurements associated
6 with the location,
7   wherein the identified plurality of sensor measurements are
8 measurements obtained by a plurality of entities.

1   2. A method according to Claim 1, further comprising:
2   storing the plurality of sensor measurements in association with the
3 location.

1   3. A method according to Claim 1, further comprising:
2   receiving a request to obtain information associated with the location.

1   4. A method according to Claim 3, wherein the acquiring step comprises:
2   identifying a stored sensor measurement associated with the location;
3   determining if the stored sensor measurement satisfies a timeframe
4 requirement; and
5   if the stored sensor measurement does not satisfy the timeframe
6 requirement, acquiring a sensor measurement satisfying the timeframe
7 requirement.

1   5. A method according to Claim 4, wherein the step of acquiring a sensor
2 measurement satisfying the timeframe requirement comprises:
3   identifying a pointer associated with the location; and

4   acquiring a sensor measurement satisfying the timeframe requirement

5   based on the pointer.

1   6. A method according to Claim 5, wherein the pointer is associated with

2   the stored sensor measurement.

1   7. A method according to Claim 1, further comprising:

2   creating a representational view of the location based on the acquired

3   plurality of sensor measurements.

1   8. A method according to Claim 7, further comprising:

2   receiving information representing the location from a user; and

3   presenting the representational view to the user.

1   9. A method according to Claim 8, wherein the representational view is

2   presented in accordance with preferences associated with the user.

1   10. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the step of acquiring

2   comprises:

3   analyzing a stored data structure comprising a plurality of locations and,

4   associated with each location, pointers for acquiring one or more sensor

5   measurements.

1   11. A method according to Claim 10, further comprising:

2   using pointers associated with the location to acquire the plurality of

3   sensor measurements.

1   12. A method according to Claim 1., wherein the step of acquiring

2   comprises:

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3   analyzing a stored data structure comprising a plurality of locations and

4   one or more sensor measurements associated with each location.

1   13. A method according to Claim 1, wherein one or more of the identified

2   plurality of sensor measurements are obtained by mobile sensors that are at

3   some times not associated with the location.

1   14. A medium storing processor-executable process steps to acquire

2   information associated with a location, the process steps comprising:

3   a step to search a network for sensor measurements associated with a

4   location; and

5   a step to acquire from the network a plurality of sensor measurements

6   associated with the location,

7   wherein the identified plurality of sensor measurements are

8   measurements obtained by a plurality of entities.

1   15. A medium according to Claim 14, the process steps further

2   comprising:

3   a step to store the plurality of sensor measurements in association with

4   the location.

1   16. A medium according to Claim 14, the process steps further

2   comprising:

3   a step to receive a request to obtain information associated with the

4   location.

1   17. A medium according to Claim 16, wherein the acquiring step

2   comprises:

3   a step to identify a stored sensor measurement associated with the

4 location;

5   a step to determine if the stored sensor measurement satisfies a

6 timeframe requirement; and

7   if the stored sensor measurement does not satisfy the timeframe

8 requirement, a step to acquire a sensor measurement satisfying the timeframe

9 requirement.

1   18. A medium according to Claim 17, wherein the step to acquire a

2 sensor measurement satisfying the timeframe requirement comprises:

3   a step to identify a pointer associated with the location; and

4   a step to acquire a sensor measurement satisfying the timeframe

5 requirement based on the pointer.

1   19. A medium according to Claim 18, wherein the pointer is associated

2 with the stored sensor measurement.

1   20. A medium according to Claim 14, the process steps further

2 comprising:

3   a step to create a representational view of the location based on the

4 acquired plurality of sensor measurements.

1   21. A medium according to Claim 20, the process steps further

2 comprising:

3   a step to receive information representing the location from a user; and

4   a step to present the representational view to the user.

1   22. A medium according to Claim 21, wherein the representational view is

2 presented in accordance with preferences associated with the user.

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1 23. A medium according to Claim 14, wherein the step to acquire

2 comprises:

3 a step to analyze a stored data structure comprising a plurality of locations

4 and, associated with each location, pointers for acquiring one or more sensor

5 measurements.

1 24. A medium according to Claim 23, the process steps further

2 comprising:

3 a step to use pointers associated with the location to acquire the plurality

4 of sensor measurements.

1 25. A medium according to Claim 14, wherein the step to acquire

2 comprises:

3 a step to analyze a stored data structure comprising a plurality of locations

4 and one or more sensor measurements associated with each location.

1 26. A medium according to Claim 14, wherein one or more of the

2 identified plurality of sensor measurements are obtained by mobile sensors that

3 are at some times not associated with the location.

1 27. An apparatus to acquire information associated with a location,

2 comprising:

3 a processor; and

4 a storage device in communication with said processor and storing

5 instructions adapted to be executed by said processor to:

6   search a network for sensor measurements associated with a

7 location; and

8   acquire from the network a plurality of sensor measurements

9 associated with the location,

10   wherein the identified plurality of sensor measurements are

11   measurements obtained by a plurality of entities.

1   28. An apparatus according to Claim 27, wherein the stored instructions

2 comprise instructions adapted to be executed by said processor to:

3   store the plurality of sensor measurements in association with the location.

1   29. An apparatus according to Claim 27, wherein the stored instructions

2 comprise instructions adapted to be executed by said processor to:

3   receive a request to obtain information associated with the location.

1   30. An apparatus according to Claim 29, wherein the stored instructions

2 adapted to be executed by said processor to acquire the plurality of sensor

3 measurements comprise stored instructions adapted to be executed by said

4 processor to:

5   identify a stored sensor measurement associated with the location;

6   determine if the stored sensor measurement satisfies a timeframe

7 requirement; and

8   if the stored sensor measurement does not satisfy the timeframe

9 requirement, acquire a sensor measurement satisfying the timeframe

10 requirement.

1   31. An apparatus according to Claim 30, wherein the stored instructions

2 adapted to be executed by said processor to acquire the sensor measurement

3 comprise stored instructions adapted to be executed by said processor to:

4   identify a pointer associated with the location; and

5   acquire a sensor measurement satisfying the timeframe requirement

6 based on the pointer.

1   32. An apparatus according to Claim 31, wherein the pointer is associated
2   with the stored sensor measurement.

1   33. An apparatus according to Claim 27, wherein the stored instructions
2   comprise stored instructions adapted to be executed by said processor to:
3   create a representational view of the location based on the acquired
4   plurality of sensor measurements.

1   34. An apparatus according to Claim 33, wherein the stored instructions
2   comprise stored instructions adapted to be executed by said processor to:
3   receive information representing the location from a user; and
4   to present the representational view to the user.

1   35. An apparatus according to Claim 34, wherein the representational
2   view is presented in accordance with preferences associated with the user.

1   36. An apparatus according to Claim 27, wherein the stored instructions
2   adapted to be executed by said processor to acquire the plurality of sensor
3   measurements comprise stored instructions adapted to be executed by said
4   processor to:
5   analyze a stored data structure comprising a plurality of locations and,
6   associated with each location, pointers for acquiring one or more sensor
7   measurements.

1   37. An apparatus according to Claim 36, wherein the stored instructions
2   comprise stored instructions adapted to be executed by said processor to:
3   use pointers associated with the location to acquire the plurality of sensor
4   measurements.

1   38. An apparatus according to Claim 27, wherein the stored instructions

2   adapted to be executed by said processor to acquire the plurality of sensor

3   measurements comprise stored instructions adapted to be executed by said

4   processor to:

5   analyze a stored data structure comprising a plurality of locations and one

6   or more sensor measurements associated with each location.

1   39. An apparatus according to Claim 27, wherein one or more of the

2   identified plurality of sensor measurements are obtained by mobile sensors that

3   are at some times not associated with the location.

1   40. A system to acquire location information, comprising:

2   a user device for receiving a location from a user, for transmitting a

3   request to receive information associated with the location, for receiving a

4   representational view of the location, and for presenting the representational view

5   to the user; and

6   a server for receiving the request, for searching a network for sensor

7   measurements associated with the location, for acquiring from the network a

8   plurality of sensor measurements associated with the location, for creating the

9   representational view, and for transmitting the representational view to the user

10   device,

11   wherein the identified plurality of sensor measurements are

12   measurements obtained by a plurality of entities.

1   41. A system according to Claim 40, wherein the server determines

2   whether mobile sensors are located within a threshold proximity of the location

3   and, if so, acquires sensor measurements from the mobile sensors.